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STATEMENT

OF

VOTES IN CONGRESS

GIVEN BY THE

HON. EBENEZER SEAVER.

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY JOHN ELIOT, JUN.

1812.

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NORFOLK NOMINATION.

TO THE FRIENDS OF PEACE, LIBERTY AND COMMERCE WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF NORFOLK.

A NUMBER of Delegates of the Republicans from the several towns composing *Norfolk District*, who were desirous of changing their Congressional Representative, and of nominating a more suitable candidate than the present member, to represent said District in the Congress of the United States, after the fourth of March next, having met at Mr. Marsh's Tavern in Dedham, the 25th inst. agreeably to previous notice in the *Boston Patriot* and *Independent Chronicle*, after having chosen Gen. GEORGE ELLIS, President, and JOHN S. WILLIAMS, Esq. Secretary, they unanimously agreed upon NATHANIEL RUGGLES, Esq. of Roxbury, as the most suitable person; and now beg leave publicly to nominate and recommend him to their fellow citizens, throughout said District, as the most suitable person to represent said District in the next Congress, and in whose patriotism, fidelity, and unblemished integrity, we have the highest confidence.—

Therefore voted, That we will use all honorable means to obtain and secure the election of NATHANIEL RUGGLES, Esq. as Representative for the next Congress, and we call upon all Republicans that are friends of PEACE, LIBERTY, and COMMERCE in said District, most devoutly, to make use of all constitutional and other lawful means to secure his election.

Voted unanimously, That we consider the late indignities offered to the several members of Congress of this State, as derogatory to the character of freemen.

Voted unanimously, That a Committee be chosen to procure extracts from the public journals of Congress, of the most important subjects, wherein the Hon. EBENEZER SEAVER, Esq. has voted since his first election to Congress to the end of the last session.

Voted, That the extracts procured from the Congressional Journals, together with the proceedings of this meeting, be published in all the newspapers printed in the town of Boston, and signed by the President, and attested by the Secretary.

(Signed) GEORGE ELLIS, *President.*

Attest, JOHN S. WILLIAMS, *Secretary.*

The subscribers, the committee above named, have, in pursuance of the authority above given, caused the said public Journals to be examined, and they hereby certify that the annexed statement is correct, the same being compared with the Journals by one of the committee. And to the end that the accuracy of this report may be easily ascertained, they have caused the pages of the Journal, containing Mr. Seaver's vote, to be inserted after each statement.

SAMUEL BARRY,
JONATHAN DORR,
LEWIS FISHER,
SAMUEL DOWNER,
NATHANIEL LOVELL, } Committee.

MR. SEAVER'S VOTES ON PROPOSITIONS FOR PROHIBITING, OR RESTRICTING COMMERCE.

26th March, 1806. On the bill prohibiting the importation of certain goods, wares and merchandize, the product or manufacture of Great Britain.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the bill.

Journals of the House, page 374.

15th Dec. 1806. The bill suspending the operation of the above act for a limited time was returned from the Senate with an amendment, authorizing the President *further to suspend the said Act*, if in his judgment the public interest should require it. This amendment was adopted, 82 A. 23 N.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the amendment.

Journals of the House, p. 50.

27th Nov. 1807. A petition was presented from the merchants and traders of Philadelphia, praying a repeal of the preceding act.

On motion *to refer* the said petition to a committee,

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the reference.

See Journals, p. 104.

14th Dec. 1807. A similar petition was presented from the merchants and inhabitants of Boston.

On motion *to refer* the said petition to a committee,

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the reference.

See Journals, p. 158.

19th Dec. 1807. In secret session, the first Embargo law being under consideration, it was moved *to limit the Embargo to sixty days.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion.

See Journals, p. 10.

On the final passage of the Embargo law,
Mr. Seaver voted *in its favor.*

See Journals, p. 14.

2d Jan. 1808. The act supplementary to the act laying an Embargo, being under consideration,
Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of its passing.

See Journals, page 219.

8th Jan. 1808. The bill supplementary to the Embargo act came from the Senate with amendments. It *was moved to postpone the consideration for one day.*
Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion.

See Journals, page 243.

29th Feb. 1808. On the passage of the bill in addition to the act, supplementary to the Embargo act,
Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the bill.

See Journals, page 426.

5th Jan. 1809. The bill to enforce and make more effectual the Embargo acts being under consideration,
Mr. Seaver voted *in its favor.*

See Journals, page 241.

18th April, 1810. The bill concerning commercial intercourse, being under consideration, it was moved that it should lie on the table, with its amendments, "*for the purpose of being printed for the information of the members.*"
Mr. Seaver voted *against* this motion.

See Journals, page 551.

25th Feb. 1811. The bill supplementary to the act prohibiting commercial intercourse, being under consideration, it was proposed *to strike out the clause,* which made the President's proclamation conclusive evidence, in courts of justice, of the repeal or modification of the decrees and orders of the belligerents.
Mr. Seaver voted *against* the striking out of the clause.

See Journals, page 318.

27th Feb. 1811. The same bill being under consideration it was moved *to postpone its consideration one day.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion.

See Journals, page 338.

Two propositions were then made, so to modify the bill as to give some *relief to our West-India trade.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against both* propositions.

See Journals, page 340.

1st April, 1812. In secret session on the bill for laying an Embargo on all ships and vessels of the United States, on the *question of engrossment of the bill,*

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor.*

See Secret Journal, now published, page 4.

On the motion that *the third reading of the bill should be postponed till* TO-MORROW—54 voted in the affirmative, 57 in the negative.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this postponement for one day. *See Journals, page* 5.

On the final passage of the bill,

Mr. Seaver voted in *its favor.*

See Journals, page 7.

6th April, 1812. On the bill to prohibit the exportation of specie, goods, wares and merchandize, a question was made whether the subject matter required secrecy.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of secrecy.

See Journals, page 24.

9th April, 1812. On the question on the final passage of this bill,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the bill.

See Journals, page 35.

13th April, 1812. This bill having been returned from the Senate with amendments, a motion was made to *postpone it indefinitely.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion.

See Journals, page 38.

23d June, 1812. The bill for a *partial* suspension of the non-intercourse acts being under consideration, Mr. Richardson of Massachusetts moved an amendment, *purporting the repeal of those acts.* Upon this, Mr. Williams of South-Carolina moved, that *the bill and amendment be postponed indefinitely.*

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the indefinite postponement. *See Journals, page* 785.

The postponement was not carried; and on the next day the question was taken on Mr. Richardson's motion. This motion was lost, yeas 58—nays 61.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this motion, having for its object the repeal of the non-intercourse and non-importation acts.

See Journals, page 789.

A motion was then made *to postpone the bill* for a partial suspension of those acts *to the* 1*st day of Feb.* 1813. This motion was carried. A. 63—N. 58.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the motion.

See Journals, page 791.

25th June, 1812. Mr. Fiske of Vermont moved to reconsider the vote of postponement to the 1st of Feb. of the preceding bill. The motion of reconsideration was lost.

Mr. Seaver *voted on neither side* of this proposition. *See Journals, page* 794.

On the same day Mr. Richardson of Massachusetts moved for the appointment of a committee to bring in a bill, for the repeal of the non-intercourse act and its supplement.

On this question, the House was equally divided. 60 A. 60 N.

The Speaker decided against the motion.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this proposition, made by Mr. Richardson.

See Journals, page 796.

MR. SEAVER'S VOTES ON QUESTIONS ARISING DURING THE DEBATE ON THE DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN.

2d June, 1812. On the motion to open the doors and take off the injunction of secrecy during the debate, on the message recommending war against Great Britain,

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion.
See Secret Journal, since published, page 52.

On the motion to reject the bill,

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the rejection of it.
See Journals, page 55.

On the proposition to insert into the bill declaring war, a section repealing the Embargo and non-intercourse acts,

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the proposition.
See Journals, page 58.

On the engrossment of the bill declaring war against Great Britain,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of it.
See Journals, page 59.

On the third reading of the bill, it was moved to *postpone its farther consideration until the first Monday in October next.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion.
See Journals, page 62.

It was then moved *to postpone the farther consideration of the bill until to-morrow.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this postponement for one day. *See Journals, page* 63.

On the final passage of the bill. It passed A. 79. N. 49.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the bill.
See Journals, page 66.

18th June, 1812. The bill declaring war against G. Britain was received from the Senate, with amend-

ments. A motion was made *to lay them on the table.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion.

See Journals, page 71.

A motion was then made *to postpone the said bill and amendments indefinitely.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this postponement.

See Journals, page 73.

A motion was then made to postpone *the said bill and amendments to the first Monday in October next.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this postponement.

See Journals, page 75.

A motion was then made to postpone *the said bill and amendments to the first Monday in July next.*

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this postponement.

See Journals, page 76.

The amendments were then concurred in by the House.

MR. SEAVER'S VOTES ON PROPOSITIONS FOR FORTIFYING THE PORTS AND HARBOURS.

25th March, 1806. On the resolution to appropriate *one hundred and fifty thousand dollars* for fortification of ports and harbours. It was carried. A. 78. N.33.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the resolution.

Joseph Barker and Isaiah L. Green were the only representatives from Massachusetts, who voted with Mr. Seaver against this appropriation.

See Journals, page 366.

23d Feb. 1807. The bill for fortifying the ports and harbours of the United States being under consideration, it was proposed to make an appropriation of *one hundred and fifty thousand dollars* for that object. It was carried. Yeas 72. Nays 44.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this proposition.

See Journals, page 313.

25th Feb. 1809. It was proposed to appropriate *one million* of dollars for the fortification of ports and

harbours in addition to existing appropriations. The motion was carried. A. 61. N. 41.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this appropriation.

Joseph Barker and Isaiah L. Green were the only representatives from Massachusetts, who voted with Mr. Seaver, against this proposition. *See Jour. p.* 440.

It was then proposed to reduce the said appropriation, by striking out the words "*in addition to the sums heretofore appropriated for that purpose.*"

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of this proposition.

See Journals, page 441.

This bill being returned from the Senate with an amendment, *to strike out the whole appropriation* above mentioned. It was carried. A. 48. N. 30.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the amendment.

See Journals, page 507.

8th June, 1809. A bill came from the Senate appropriating "*seven*" *hundred and fifty thousand dollars*, for completing and erecting fortifications for the security of ports and harbours.

Mr. Burwell of Virginia moved to strike out "*seven*" for the purpose of inserting "*one.*" It was not carried. Yeas 47. Nays 84.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of striking out.

See Journals, page 99.

9th June, 1809. The question being on the final passage of the above bill. It was carried. A. 77. N. 43.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* it.

Barzillai Gannett was the only member from Massachusetts, who concurred with Mr. Seaver in this vote.

See Journals, page 105.

5th Feb. 1812. The bill for a further appropriation for the defence of our maritime frontier, passed the House of Representatives. A. 88. N. 25.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the bill.

In this vote Mr. Seaver was *the only* member from Massachusetts who voted on this side.

See Journals, page 335.

MR. SEAVER'S VOTES ON THE SUBJECT OF GUN-BOATS.

25th March, 1806. On the resolution to build fifty gun-boats, and appropriating two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for this object,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of it.

See Journals, page 367.

23d Feb. 1807. On the proposition for an appropriation of *one hundred and fifty thousand dollars* for gun-boats.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of it.

See Journals, page 315.

MR. SEAVER'S VOTES ON PROPOSITIONS CONCERNING NAVAL PREPARATION, AND EMPLOY OF OUR ARMED SHIPS.

25th March, 1806. On the resolution to build six line of battle ships,

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the proposition.

See Journals, page 369.

12th April, 1810. On the motion to *discharge the committee* of the bill, authorizing the President to employ the public armed vessels of the United States to convoy our merchant vessels. It was not carried. A. 50. N. 61.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of discharging the committee of that subject.

See Journals, page 522.

25th April, 1810. The bill to reduce the naval establishment of the United States being under consideration, it was proposed to strike out the section providing for *the sale of all the armed vessels of the United States, except three to be designated by the President.*

Mr. Seaver voted *on neither side* of this proposition.

See Journals, page 595.

On the same bill, it was proposed to strike out the section providing for reducing the marine corps.

Mr. Seaver voted on neither side on this proposition.

Journals, page 598.

On the same bill, it was proposed to *direct the discharge of the officers in the navy*, except nine captains, thirty-six lieutenants, and fifty midshipmen. Determined in the negative. A. 36. N. 67.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of this proposition.

Journals, page 603.

It was proposed to amend this bill so as to leave it discretionary with the President of the United States, as to the number of frigates and public armed vessels to be kept in service, and to lay the rest up in ordinary.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of this proposition.

See Journals, page 616.

It was proposed on this bill to retain "*two thousand seven hundred and twenty-three*" able seamen, ordinary seamen, and boys, in service.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this proposition.

Journals, page 617.

It was proposed to retain "*two thousand*" in service.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this proposition.

Journals, page 619.

It was proposed that *no more than* "*fourteen hundred and twenty-five*" should be retained in service.

Mr. Seaver was *in favor* of this proposition.

See Journals, page 620.

27th Jan. 1812. The bill *concerning the naval establishment* being under consideration, it was proposed *to strike out the section* providing for building, equipping and completing frigates, averaging thirty eight guns, or thereabouts.

This proposition was carried in the affirmative. Yeas 62. Nays 59.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of striking out the section.

Ezekiel Bacon of Massachusetts was the only member, from that state, who voted on the same side with

Mr. Seaver. Had they voted against the proposition the section would not have been striken out.

See Journals, p. 297.

The same bill being under consideration, it was proposed, so to fill the blanks of the bill, as to appropriate *two hundred thousand dollars, for the purchase and supply of timber for ship building and navy purposes.* It was carried. Yeas 82. Nays 37.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this proposition.

Mr. Seaver was *the only member* from Massachusetts who voted against this appropriation.

See Journals, page 300.

The same bill being under consideration, a proposition was made for an annual appropriation for the same object for three years. It was carried. Yeas 62. Nays 52.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the proposition. And was, again, *the only member* from Massachusetts, who voted on that side of the question.

See Journals, page 301.

The same bill being under consideration, the question was on a section for the establishment *of a dock yard.* Mr. Rhea of Tennessee moved to strike out the section, altogether.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of this motion.

The motion was carried. A. 56. N. 52.

Mr. Bacon was the only member from Massachusetts, who voted on the same side with Mr. Seaver. Had they voted in the negative, the House would have been equally divided.

See Journals, p. 305.

On the same bill a section was proposed for building four seventy four gun ships.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this proposition.

See Journals, p. 306.

29th Jan. 1812. On the final passage of this bill, concerning the naval establishment, it was carried. Yeas 65. Nays 30.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* it. *See Journals, p.* 309.

MR. SEAVER'S VOTES ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING DRAWBACKS OF DUTIES ON GOODS EXPORTED.

16th Feb. 1811. It was proposed to declare *the expediency of repealing all the laws allowing drawbacks* on the exportation of foreign goods.

A motion was made to postpone this proposition to 2d March, the end of the session.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* this postponement.

In this vote, Mr. Seaver had but one vote, on the the same side, from all New England.

See Journals, p. 269.

27th Feb. 1812. On the resolution for retaining 25 per cent. of the present drawback, allowed on exportation of goods, wares and merchandize,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of such a retaining of the drawback. *See Journals, p.* 429.

MR. SEAVER'S VOTES IN RELATION TO THE DUTY ON SALT.

12th Jan. 1807. The bill repealing the act laying a duty on salt, being under consideration, a motion was made *to strike out* the first section, which provided for the repeal of the duty.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* striking out this section. *See Journals, p.* 136.

13th Jan. 1807. The bill repealing the duty on salt, being on its final passage,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of its passing.

See Journals, p, 141.

26th Feb. 1807. The bill repealing the duty upon salt being returned from the Senate with an amendment, proposing to repeal only the law of 1797, which laid a duty of *eight* cents, and thereby to suffer the law upon that subject, laying a duty of *twelve* cents to continue,

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the proposition of the Senate. *See Journals, p.* 331.

Upon the motion to adhere to the bill, as originally sent from the house, and which provided for a *total repeal of the salt tax*,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of it.

See Journals, p. 333.

28th Feb. 1812. On the resolution to re-enact the duty of twenty cents on salt,

Mr. Seaver voted *in its favor.*

See Journals, p. 435.

MR. SEAVER'S VOTES ON DUTIES PROPOSED ON IMPORTS AND TONNAGE, AND ON THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL TAXATION.

18th April, 1810. It being proposed to lay *an additional duty of fifty per cent*, on imported articles,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the duty.

See Journals, p. 554.

27th Feb. 1812. On the resolution for laying an additional duty of one hundred per cent.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favour* of the resolution.

See Journals, p. 425.

On the resolution laying an additional tonnage duty, including a duty on all vessels licensed for the coasting trade and fisheries, of *twenty* cents per ton a year, and on all other vessels belonging to the citizens of the United States, of *twenty five* cents per ton on entry,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the resolution.

See Journals, p. 430.

On the resolution for laying duties on licences to distil spirits, of *seventy-five* or *fifty* cents per gallon, and of *five, or fifteen* dollars annually per still, according as they were employed about spirits, distilled from foreign or domestic materials,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the resolution.

See Journals, p. 449.

On the resolution for laying duties on licences to retailers of wines, spirits and foreign merchandize, including tavern keepers, at the following rates, viz.

If in cities and villages containing more than one hundred families—

1. On retailers of foreign merchandize, including wines and spirits, *twenty-five* dollars.
2. On do. of wines alone, *twenty* dollars.
3. On do. of spirits alone, *twenty* dollars.
4. On do. domestic spirits alone, *fifteen* dollars.
5. On do. of foreign merchandize, other than wines and spirits, *fifteen* dollars.

If in any other place than cities, towns, and villages, containing more than one hundred families—

On the first class above-mentioned, *fifteen* dollars.
On the 2d do. do. *fifteen* dollars.
On the 3d do. do. *ten* dollars.
On the 4th do. do. *ten* dollars.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of all the above taxes.
See Journals, page 450.

On the resolution passed the 4th March, 1812, for laying duties on sales at auction of foreign merchandize, for every hundred dollars of the purchase money, *two* dollars; and on sales at auction of ships or vessels, for every hundred dollars of the purchase money, *twenty-five* cents.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of all the above taxes.
See Journals, page 452.

On the resolution passed 4th March, 1812, for laying a duty of four cents per pound on all sugars refined in the United States,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the tax.
See Journals, page 453.

On the resolution passed 4th March, 1812, for laying the following duties, viz.

1. On every coach, chariot, and post-chaise, *twenty-five* dollars.
2. On every coachee and phaeton having pannel work, *fifteen* dollars.

3. On every four-wheel carriage having steel springs, *ten* dollars.

4. On every four-wheel carriage having iron, or wooden springs, and on every two-wheel carriage with a top, or having steel or iron springs, *five* dollars.

5. On every other four or two-wheel carriage, *three* dollars.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of all these taxes.
See Journals, p. 455.

On the resolution passed 4th March, 1812, for laying stamp duties on the following instruments of writing, viz.

1. On all notes issued by any bank payable to bearer or order, for every one hundred dollars, *one* dollar.

2. On all notes of hand payable to bearer or order, having one or more indorsers; and on all bills of exchange above fifty dollars, having one or more indorsers, on every hundred dollars, *twenty-five* cents.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the whole tax.
See Journals, p. 457.

On the resolution passed 4th March, 1812, for *laying a direct tax* of three millions of dollars,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of this direct tax.
See Journals, p. 460.

June 22, 1812. On the bill for laying an additional duty of "*one hundred*" *per cent.* on all goods imported, a motion was made to strike out "*one hundred*" in order to insert a lower rate of duty.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* striking out the one hundred per cent. *See Journals, p.* 778.

On the final passage of this bill,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of it.
See Journals, p. 779.

VOTES OF MR. SEAVER ON VARIOUS QUESTIONS NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PRECEDING HEADS.

15th Jan. 1811. On the bill, for admitting New-Orleans into the Union, on the footing of the original states,

Mr. Seaver voted in *its favor*. *See Journals, p.* 125.

21st Dec. 1811. On the motion of Mr. Nelson, so to amend the rules of the house as to secure to every member the *right of speaking* ONCE, which by the present rules a majority may deny,

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion, *See Journals, p.* 185.

On the message relative to Henry's affair, a motion was made, that the committee of foreign relations *should have power "to send for persons, papers, and records,"* in order to search that affair to the bottom. The motion was adopted by the house. 104 A. 10 N. *Every member from New-England*, except Mr. Fiske of Vermont and Mr. Seaver, voted in favor of the proposition.

Both these voted *against it*. *See Journals, p.* 481.

On the bill authorizing the issuing and circulation of Treasury notes,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of it. *See Journals, page* 765.

22d June 1812. In secret session, a proposition was made to authorize the President to take possession of East Florida.

On the question whether *secrecy* should be enjoined on this proposition,

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of secrecy. *See secret Journal, since published, page* 79.

On the engrossment of the above bill,

Mr. Seaver voted *in its favor*. *See Journals, page* 81.

12th Feb. 1808. On the petition of Joseph Story, agent for the claimants of Georgia land, praying to be heard at the bar of the house in behalf of the claimants, Mr. Bacon moved, that the hearing prayed for should be granted.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the motion.

See Journals, p. 369.

2d Feb. 1805. On the resolution to appoint commissioners to compromise with the claimants of Georgia land, it was carried. Yeas 63. Nays 58.

Mr. Seaver voted *against* the resolution, being *the only member* from Massachusetts voting on this side. *See Journals, p.* 286.

5th Feb. 1805. On the bill brought in pursuance of the above resolution, a motion was made to *reject* the bill.

Mr. Seaver voted *in favor* of the rejection of it, being the *only member* from Massachusetts so voting. *See Journals, p.* 293.